

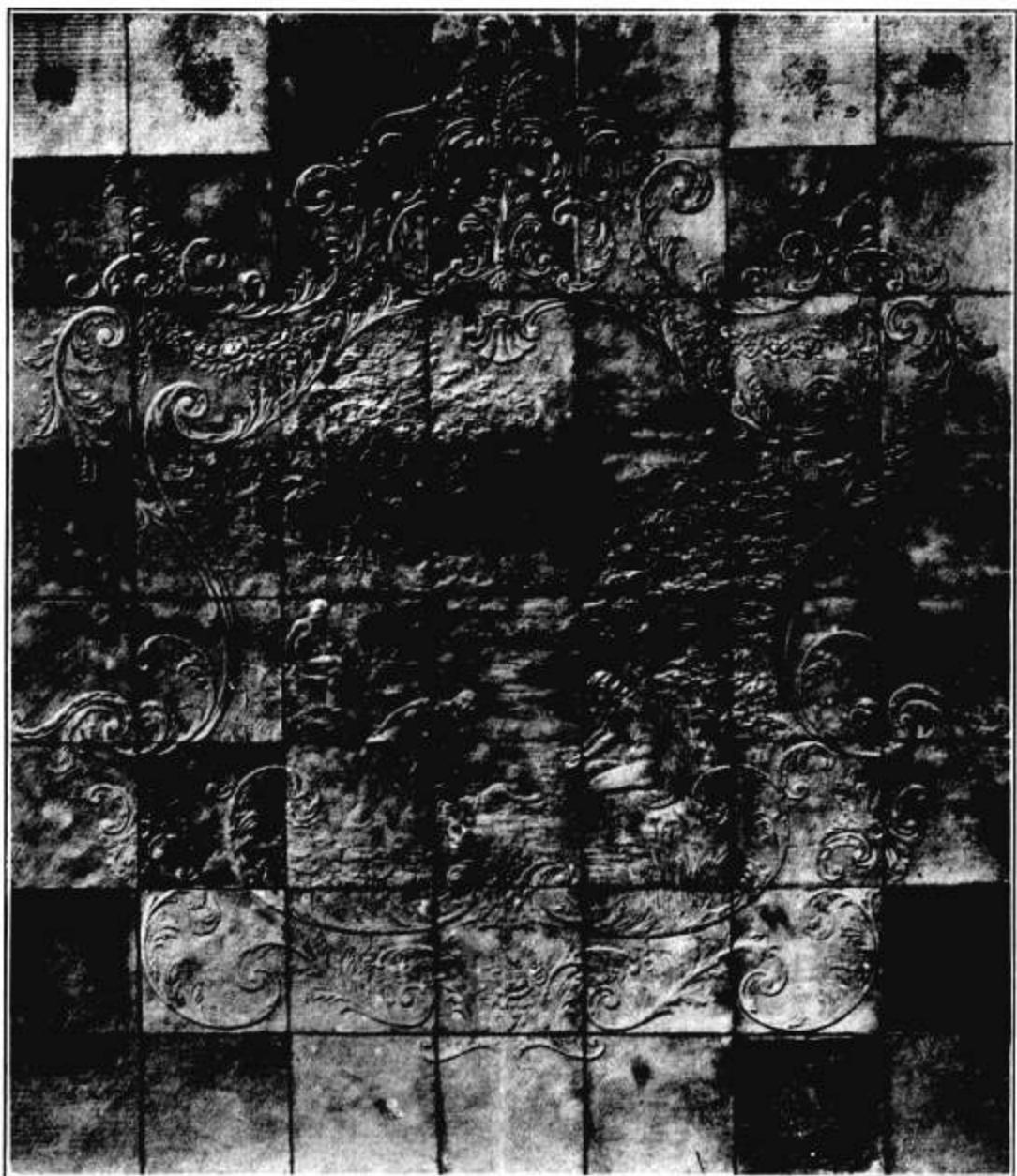
CHILDREN'S CALCULATIONS

BY E. L. G. BROWN

CHILDREN learn to count in school, and they practise it in their cots with the wall paper designs, with the patterns of the quilt or the panes of the window. They like the gay colored patterns and fantastic designs better than the markings on the slate, and they find more meaning in them. All children are the same, they like gay solid figures that are made for them, and the walls and quilts around the childish cots are fuller of interest than those they see when they have outgrown their cots.

That which applies to all children applies most strongly to those who are sick. They have plenty of time for their childish calculations, for the diversions of children in general are denied to them. In the children's wards of modern hospitals gay wall papers are unknown. The sanitary precautions which regulate the use of powerful acids, require even the walls of the wards to be covered with sanitary substances. Much use is made of tile for this purpose, and the pure white in color is the kind most frequently chosen as being the most suggestive of the cleanliness which must characterize everything in a hospital. There is everything to be said in favor of such walls; they can be no aid in spreading infection because they cannot absorb the moisture essential to germ life; and they outlast the remainder of the building, because tile as a building substance has no rival in durability. But if quite unadorned, the white walls are apt to be monotonous. It is possible, however, to apply a decoration to these white tiles which is as lasting as the tiles themselves. They may be beautified by the designer, and there is no reason why the wonderful designs which the museums show in this work should not be found imitated in some small measure on the walls of the institutions which exist for the public good, where they would give pleasure to others beside the children.

But in addition to the decoration of tile by means of designs, there is another form of relieving the monotony of the white which is also lasting. They can be painted upon; and the pictures may be as varied as the painters' ideas in subject. The colors do not fade from exposure to air or light, because the painting is executed in a certain kind of fire paint which, when it leaves the painter's hands, is subjected to a high temperature so that the colors may be burned in. Colored pictures



have a fascination for all and for children more especially. Most of the stories they know are learned from pictures; and every picture affords some subject for their calculations. The pictures on the walls are often the most vivid form of their childish imaginings, and give color to the pictures they themselves create. The designs and repeats are so many parts in their chain of calculation, and the more intricate, so much the more interesting are they to them.

Children live much in a world of "make believe," and the more interesting the pictures on the walls, the gayer will be the people in their world, and the easier will be their childish calculations.

NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS

NOTES FROM SEVERANCE HOSPITAL, SEOUL, KOREA.

BY ESTHER L. SHIELDS

Sunday, October 20, 1907.

A five-year-old Korean boy was brought in to-day his father saying, "Please give him his life." The child and his eight-year-old brother had been playing with a sickle yesterday, and in their play, this child was slashed in the abdomen, so that the intestine protruded. The little patient was brought twelve miles this morning, still in his much-soiled clothes, and with a dressing of dirty cotton wrapped around the wounded abdomen. His pulse was very weak, and an active peritonitis had already set in, but Dr. Hirst and Dr. Ludlow went to work to do what they could. To our sorrow, the little fellow died—even before the operation was finished, and it was pathetic indeed to see the father start away, with the small son covered and tied on his back, just as though he were sleeping. The child's mother died a couple of years ago, and the man had not heard of Christianity—so this opportunity was used to tell him something about it, and urge him to read the New Testament and to inquire of Christians near his home that he might thoroughly understand. The Korean nurse said to the father that when he got back home, he should not whip the other child for his unintentional carelessness, for he would be terribly punished by the result of the accident, without adding anything else.

Two maternity cases have been sent to their homes within the last twenty-four hours. One was a Japanese woman with a tiny daughter. The other was a young woman who has been one of the German Hospital Medical School students—(doing nursing during the first years of